Record Reveals Warren Commission Considered Exhuming Oswald's Body

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FORT WORTH, Tex., Sept. 7 (UPI) —Members of the Warren Commission once considered exhuming the body of alleged presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald, declassified documents show.

The FBI also considered such an action and the CIA requested it, a newspaper report said.

Exhumation of the body is the subject of a court hearing that resumes Monday as a result of reports by a British author who cites allegedly 'persuasive and powerful evidence' that a Soviet secret agent assumed Oswald's identity after he defected to Russia in 1959.

Previously classified government documents obtained today by UPI showed the possibility of unearthing the body was discussed secretly by the Warren Commission and federal investigators for months after the Nov. 23, 1963, assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

On Jan. 21, 1964, in executive session, the transcripts show an extensive Warren Commission discussion of exhuming the body and either cremating it or moving it to a secret mausoleum. The concern appeared to be possible vandalism.

The transcripts show that then-Rep. Hale Boggs (D-La.) opposed moving the body and Chief Justice Earl Warren, after discussion, agreed.

Boggs said: "If you move that body 20 feet over to somewhere else, somebody is going to say that is not the body and you are going to have to have somebody go down there and pull it out of that mausoleum and have X-rays made and prove it is his body."

During the same secret session, commission member John J. McCloy said he had heard that Life magazine was preparing an article on an interview with Oswald's mother, Marguerite Oswald, "and they were throwing in this note she was now saying, giving evidence in this thing that he was a Soviet agent."

Sen. Richard Russell of Georgia responded: "That will blow the lid if she testifies to that."

The article was never published.

The court proceeding was initiated by Oswald's brother, Robert, who is seeking to stop the exhumation requested by British author and attorney Michael Eddowes.

But Robert Oswald also considered having his brother's body dug up two days after its burial Nov. 25, 1963. He sought to have the remains cremated.